

REMARKS

Claims 45-54 are presented for consideration, with Claims 45, 48 and 51-54 being independent.

Claims 5, 9, 24, 28, 39 and 41 have been cancelled and replaced with Claims 45-54. Support for the new claims can be found on page 8, line 24, *et. seq.*, of the specification.

All of the previously-presented claims i.e., Claims 5, 9, 24, 28, 39 and 41, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Nishizawa '228 in combination with Gecht '832. This rejection is deemed to be moot in view of the cancellation of the claims.

It is further submitted that Applicant's invention as now set forth in Claims 45-54 is patentable over the cited art.

In Claim 45, a method of controlling peripheral equipment connected to a network and managed by a directory server on the network, includes a first receiving step of receiving, from an information processing apparatus on the network, a print job together with an access ticket issued from the directory server, a storing step of storing the print job received in the first receiving step to a storing medium, a first decrypting step of decrypting the access ticket received together with the print job, and a first control step of determining validity of the received access ticket based on the decrypting result and limiting execution of the print job. Additional steps include a second receiving step of receiving, from an information processing apparatus on the network, a management command together with an access ticket issued from the

directory server, at timing independent of the first receiving step, a second decrypting step of decrypting the access ticket received together with the management command in the second receiving step, and a second control step of determining validity of the access ticket received in the second receiving step based on the decrypting result and limiting execution of the management command. As claimed, in the case where the management command received in the second receiving step is one for deleting a specific print job stored in the storing medium, the second control step determines whether or not user information in the decryption results of the second decrypting step corresponds to user information in the decryption results of the first decrypting step and limits execution of deleting the specific job in the storing medium.

Claims 48 and 51 relate to peripheral equipment and a computer readable storage medium, respectively, and correspond to Claim 45.

Claim 52 relates to a method of controlling peripheral equipment connected to a network and managed by a directory server on the network, and includes a first receiving step, a storing step, a first decrypting step and a first control step as set forth in Claim 45. Additional steps include an obtaining step of obtaining from the directory server, access information corresponding to a specific user, an inputting step of inputting a management command from an operation panel of the peripheral equipment, and a second control step of determining validity of the access information obtained in the obtaining step and limiting execution of the management

command. In a case where the management command inputted in the inputting step is one for deleting a specific print job stored in the storage medium, the second control step determines whether or not user information in the access information corresponds to user information in the decryption results of the first decrypting step and limits execution of deleting the specific print job in the storing medium.

Claims 53 and 54 relate to peripheral equipment and a computer readable storage medium, respectively, and correspond to Claim 52.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, the directions for a print job are issued together with access information, and a management command for deleting a specific print job is also issued with access information. Additionally, it is determined whether user information in the access information with the print job corresponds with user information of the access information with the command for deleting a specified print job in order to determine whether the job can be deleted. These features of Applicant's claimed invention are disclosed, for example, in Figures 30 and 31 and the corresponding specification on page 45, line 20, *et seq.*

As previously discussed, the patent to Nishizawa relates to a network printing apparatus that includes a print server 10, and a job receiving unit 1 for receiving print requests. It is acknowledged in the Office Action that Nishizawa does not provide decrypting information.

The secondary citation to Gecht was cited to compensate for the deficiency in Nishizawa. In Gecht, a system provides printing services over a communication network. Gecht

discloses that a print job may be encrypted at a print job source 10 and decrypted at a print pulling device 100.

Without conceding to the propriety of combining Nishizawa and Gecht in the manner proposed in the Office Action, it is submitted that such a combination still fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, the proposed combination fails to teach or suggest, among other features, a control step of determining whether or not user information accompanying the print job request corresponds to user information that accompanies a command for deleting a specific print job. While Nishizawa uses an access control table as shown in Figures 3 and 4 to determine whether a job can be deleted, there is no teaching or suggestion of determining whether the user information from the print job corresponds with that of the command to delete a specified job. Gecht also fails to teach or suggest this feature. Still further, neither Nishizawa nor Gecht teach or suggest that the user information is issued from the directory server, which adds to the flexibility of Applicants' claimed invention.

Therefore, it is submitted that the proposed combination of art fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 45, 48 and 51-54 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 46, 47, 49 and 50 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Scott D. Malpede/

Scott D. Malpede
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SDM/vnm

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